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Transportation Division

Roberto Sarmiento

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Transportation Division

Roberto Sarmiento, Chair

The Transportation Division promotes the exchange of knowledge and information in transportation, both in general or in one of its many subdivisions including air, highway, rail, and water transport, and multimodal transportation.



Dear Friends:

Recently, my family and I had the opportunity to experience a wonderful example of community volunteers coming together to help a noble cause. My son is working toward obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest possible honor in scouting. As part of the process, he needed to develop, manage, and complete a project to benefit our community. One frigid Sunday in March, he had more than thirty-five boys, teenagers, and adults volunteering to work eight hours to make a poor children's home a better place.

People showed up not because they had to, but because they wanted to help out. Some helped a lot; others, not as much; but everyone kept smiling. At the end of the day, we went home feeling that our work would make a difference in some children's lives.

That's the feeling I want to share with you today. That's the feeling I have had all these years as a volunteer for our Division. Our "community" needs and relies on people like you and me to operate and survive. We need members to come forth and be willing to spend a little or a lot of their time making our community a better place at the end of the day.

In hard times, we as individuals and professionals need the support of friends and colleagues. My fellow members have been there for me, as well as for others, and we thank you for that. But please look inside yourself and ask if you could do more for your

professional community. If you think you could and want to give more, please contact the incoming chair, Shaun Moran, or myself; we could always use your hands.

Elsewhere in this issue is the Division's final program for the Annual Conference in New York. Stay tuned to the electronic discussion list for last-minute announcements and updates. This year the Division is very fortunate to have five European transportation information professionals as speakers for the Sunday and Wednesday sessions. They all bring incredible backgrounds and a somewhat different perspective on our profession. If you are going to New York, take this opportunity to get to know them and broaden your understanding of our international community.

On a related note, if you are in New York and at the Conference, do not forget to exercise your right to vote for your favorite Association name.

By the time you read this, the fate of the National Transportation Library (NTL) and TRIS Online will probably be pretty much decided. Whatever the outcome, I want to thank all who took an active role in writing letters or talking to people in support of the NTL. I am at a loss for words to describe my feelings of despair, sadness, and outrage at the possibility of losing the "central square" of our community.

Have a good summer,
Roberto

Transportation Division New Members

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Email: sauers@rci.rutgers.edu

Breaking News!

AASHTO Standing Committee on Research agreed to provide \$250,000 for a policy study aimed at developing a national strategic plan for information management. This decision was based on information provided in a draft report of 'The Scoping study for a National Strategic Plan for Transportation Information Management' written by Barbara Harder and Sandra Tucker under NCHRP Project 20-07/142.

Profile of Betty Lou Hicks **Nominee for SLA Transportation Division Chair-Elect**

Betty Lou Hicks was born in Washington, Pennsylvania. She received both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Library Science from Clarion State College in Clarion, Pennsylvania. She has been involved in library work since first becoming a student librarian while in high school. Her work has taken her from establishing elementary school libraries, a middle school library, and a public library to serving as a Business and Technical Librarian for a large public library, to serving as the Young Adult Coordinator for Library Services for a County Library System, to designing and automating bookmobiles, to being a K-12 school librarian, to the position as Manager, Library Services for Hanson Professional Services Inc. She has been with Hanson for 13 years and has earned the appointment of Associate Partner.

Hanson is headquartered in Springfield, Illinois. It also has 13 other offices in the U.S., and does work worldwide. Hanson is composed of consulting engineers, with specialties in all forms of Civil Engineering work – transportation (highways, airports, railroads), structural engineering, and bridge design. They also have foundation, electrical, mechanical engineers and architects. For good measure there are also biologists, chemists, land acquisition specialists, and hydro-geologists.

Betty Lou as an SLA member belongs to the Engineering, Transportation, and ERMD Divisions. While serving as Chair of the Engineering Division, she also served as Planner for the Engineering Division at the Indianapolis Annual Meeting. She is currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Transportation Division.

Betty Lou is active in her local library region serving as Member-at-Large representing Special Libraries on the Rolling Prairie Library System's Local Library Systems Automation Project. She also serves as the Secretary for the Automation Project Board of Directors.

She is married to Fred Hicks, who also happens to be a librarian. They have a Boston terrier named Toby. They spend their vacations traveling to Michigan to see Fred's family and to Pennsylvania to see Betty's family. Her spare time she serves her church as supervisor of the church library, as an usher, and on the funeral luncheon committee. What she enjoys most is attending either coin auctions or antique auctions, especially those featuring Victorian furniture.

Profile of Rita Evans **Nominee for SLA Transportation Division Secretary-Treasurer**

Employment history:

Reference Librarian, 2001-present
Institute of Transportation Studies Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Taxonomy/Intranet Consultant, 1999-2001
Clients included Wells Fargo and SAP
San Francisco, California

Information Resources Manager, 1985-1998
Technical Library
Dolby Laboratories, Inc.
San Francisco, California

Senior Information Specialist, 1984-1985
Technical Library
Machinery Technology Division
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Information Specialist, 1978-1984
Business Research Library
Gulf Oil Corporation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Special Libraries Association Activities

Transportation Division
Bulletin Editor, 2002-2003

San Francisco Bay Region Chapter
Strategic Planning Committee Chair, 2000-2003
President-Elect/ President/ Past-President, 1996-1999
Bulletin Editor, 1992-1995
Tours Committee Chair, 1989-1990

Pittsburgh Chapter
Treasurer, 1982-1984

SLA Nominating Committee
Member, 1992-1993

Solo Librarians Caucus
Convener, 1989-1990

Education

University of Pittsburgh
Bachelor of Arts, English Writing
Master of Library Science